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Media Release:

September 26, 2014

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Michigan jury finds former Indiana school principal guilty on four counts

Multi-state, online investigation led to conviction of Michael Ettenberger

(Jackson, MI) – A Jackson County, Michigan jury yesterday found former Indiana school principal Michael Ettenberger guilty on four counts for his role in a multi-state child sexually abusive material case.

Michael Ettenberger was charged last December for his role in soliciting child sexually abusive material online. Also charged was Jill Miller, a former PTO president in Clarklake, Michigan. The charges were the result of an investigation by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department in Indiana and the Jackson County Sheriff's Department in Michigan.

Ettenberger, who is scheduled to be sentenced on November 5, was found guilty on the following counts:

- Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 2nd Degree (as an aider and abettor to co-defendant Jill Miller);
- Child Sexually Abusive Activity (as an aider and abettor to co-defendant Jill Miller);
- Using the Internet/Computer to Communicate with Another to Commit a Crime; and
- Possession of Child Sexually Abusive Material.

The Office of Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney Jerard M. Jarzynka prosecuted the case.

"This case shows just how law enforcement can work together across state lines to bring offenders to justice," said Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry. "We appreciate the work of Prosecutor Jarzynka and his staff, as well as the thorough investigation by IMPD and the Jackson County Sheriff's Department for their work on a complex and challenging case."

Jill Miller pleaded guilty to three felonies: Criminal Sexual Conduct 2nd Degree, Child Sexually Abusive Activity, and Using the Internet/Computer to Communicate with Another to Commit a Crime. She was sentenced in January 2014 to all three counts and is currently serving 6 - 20 years in the Michigan Department of Corrections.

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.